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As free school receives hundreds of applications for starting places...



CHIEF REPORTER
NAZIA DEWJI

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london.newsquest.co.uk

More than 700 families in Kingston have applied to send their children to the borough's first free school next year.

And that is despite the fact a planning application to build the school is yet to be submitted to Kingston Council.

The Kingston Academy, at the site of the former North Kingston Centre in Richmond Road, has so far received 711 in-borough applications for its first intake in September 2015, with out of borough applications still yet to be counted.

It means that at least 500 families are likely to be left disappointed, as only 180 year 7 places are available in the first year.

But headteacher Sophie Cavanagh said: "We are oversubscribed, which is a

fantastic position to be in in year one.

"Some parents will be disappointed – that's the case with most schools.

"There is nothing unusual about our admissions criteria – it will be distance that will be the deciding factor."

Kingston Academy will be a co-educational, non-selective and non-faith school with six forms of entry for 11 to 18-year-olds.

The free school bid was put forward by Kingston Educational Trust, which includes Kingston College, Kingston University and Kingston Council.

Kingston College principal Peter Mayhew-Smith said: "We're delighted that Kingston Academy has created such a high degree of interest from families in the area.

"Above all, this is their school and we will be able to ensure that it is genuinely an excellent local school for local people, which was



Pleased: Headteacher Sophie Cavanagh welcomed the response

always our ambition."

But Councillor Liz Green, leader of the Liberal Democrat opposition, said she was worried about the lack of a planning application.

She said: "It is good that people have faith in the academy, but it is just my worry about the process happening in a

timely manner.

"How is it going to open in September without a planning application?"

Kingston Council leader Kevin Davis said: "The planning application is down to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and has been all along.

"But they have guaranteed that a school will be open at that site in September.

"It would have been fantastic to have a brand new school building to open in September, but that's clearly not the way the Department for Education and EFA open schools any more."

Kenneth Dunston, of Latchmere Lane, hopes to send his son to the school.

He said: "It is difficult for parents to take a leap of faith for a new school, but I went to the open day and it was absolutely packed.

"I'm not surprised it is oversubscribed. It just shows how much the area needs another school."

Proposed site: The former North Kingston Centre has been earmarked for the borough's first free school

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Two-tier trains, extra tracks and increased speed limit mooted to ease overcrowding

Get on board the double-deckers?

REPORTER

JON SHARMAN

jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

Commuters could be whisked to Waterloo on double-decker trains as part of Network Rail plans to accommodate millions of extra passengers over the next 30 years.

Ideas the group is considering, alongside South West Trains (SWT), also include extra tracks between Surbiton and Clapham Junction and increasing speed limits to 125mph on main commuter routes outside London – but

watchdog groups have said value for commuters' money must be a priority.

A new public consultation was launched this week and will run for three months, allowing passengers to air their views on what should be done to bolster an often unreliable and overcrowded service.

Tim Shoveller, representing National Rail and SWT, said: "The plans we are proposing in this study mean we will be able to cope with a forecast growth of 40 per cent on main line services over the next 30 years.

"We are also looking at what

kind of improvements we can offer in reliability and frequency by introducing new technology.

Revamped services in the "Wessex route" area – including Kingston, Hampton Court and Epsom – could link in with Crossrail 2, according to details released on Friday.

A number of changes to signalling are also mooted.

The proposals may go some way to appease travellers who routinely suffer shorter-than-expected trains, delayed services and signalling problems.

A spokesman for London TravelWatch said: "Proposals

for double-decker trains would address capacity issues, as will increased frequency of suburban rail services, something we have been advocating for a number of years.

"But all this needs to be tempered by ensuring passengers get value for money which has to be a short term priority."

Martin Abrams, from the Campaign for Better Transport, said: "We welcome Network Rail's consultation not only because this network includes some of the most overcrowded routes in the

country, but also because the Department for Transport appears to be measuring overcrowding differently.

"The space per person allowed on South West Trains before a train is overcrowded is half that of everywhere else."

"This may be masking the real problems faced by commuters on this network and we need a proper strategy to give passengers a more comfortable and pleasant journey."

For more information search "Wessex route study" at networkrail.co.uk.

Who gets your vote in byelection?

Candidates for next month's byelection in New Malden have been announced.

The Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, Labour Party, Green Party and UKIP have all put forward nominations for the St James ward ballot.

The byelection was called following the death of former Kingston Conservative leader Howard Jones last month.

Jack Cheetham, of Bodley Road in New Malden, will stand for the Tories in his home ward – a Conservative stronghold.

He said: "It is both a pleasure and privilege to be selected as the Tory candidate in St James. I relish the chance to show residents how much I am willing to work for them.

"I am also honoured to have the chance to continue serving out Howard Jones' term in office; he was the one that first inspired me to get more involved locally."

Mr Cheetham also stood in St Marks ward in Surbiton at the May local elections, missing out on a seat by 40 votes.

The Labour Party has put forward father-of-two and politics graduate Stephen Dunkling, who has lived in New Malden for 25 years.

The accountant, of Connaught Road, said: "As a father of school-age children I am naturally interested in the borough's education system – and I am concerned at the lack

of school places in this area.

"I want my children to be able to cycle safely on local roads, and I want them to have the opportunity for decent employment and affordable housing when the time comes."

Annette Wookey, of Bargate Close, New Malden, will stand for the Liberal Democrats.

The Green Party has put forward Alex Nelson, of Union Street, Kingston.

UKIP has announced former Chessington Community College pupil and educational recruitment consultant Ben Roberts, 28, from Chessington, as its candidate. He previously stood for UKIP in last month's byelection in Tudor ward, where he received 269 votes and came fourth.

The St James ward byelection will take place on Thursday, December 18.



Cons: Jack Cheetham



Labour: Stephen Dunkling



Lib Dems: Annette Wookey



UKIP: Ben Roberts

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Car park deaths

The two people who died after falling from a Kingston car park within a day of one another have been named.

Adam Kotynski, 35, from Florence Road, Walton, was killed when he fell from Eden Walk car park on Monday, October 20.

The following day, October 21, Dario Olivo, 20, from Nower Road, Dorking, died after falling from the same car park.

Both inquests were opened and adjourned yesterday morning at West London Coroner's Court.

The provisional cause of death in both cases is multiple injuries.

No dates have yet been set for either inquest to resume.

● The Mind charity promotes the views and needs of people with mental health problems.

Its helpline number is 03001 233393. Alternatively call Mind in Kingston on 020 8255 3939.

To get in touch with the Samaritans in Kingston, call 020 8399 6676 or drop in at 12 St Andrew's Road, Surbiton. Samaritans lend a confidential ear to those in distress.

CONTACTS

Calls may be monitored for training purposes

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152,505 pages are looked at every month (Jan-June 2014)

ON THE RECORD: McBusted drop by at town's Banquet Records

It's all about you: Selfie fest as boy band sign in

REPORTER

LAURA PROTO

laura.proto@london.newsquest.co.uk

It was selfie galore as pop supergroup McBusted popped into Banquet Records to sign copies of their new single this week.

The band, made up of McFly's Tom Fletcher, Dougie Poynter, Harry Judd and Danny Jones and Busted's James Bourne and Matt Willis, visited the Kingston record store on the release day of their new single, Air Guitar.

Although the signing session on Monday, November 24, was the band's first as the new line-up, both bands have a history of visiting Kingston.

Busted visited WH Smith in the Bentall Centre in early 2003 to promote their hit Year 3000 and McFly signed copies of their debut single, 5 Colours In Her Hair, at



Selfies: Fans get in the picture

Deadlinepix KT88670

Woolworths in the Market Place in 2004.

Although more than 10 years have passed, fans could not get enough of the pop rockers, with 1,100 people snapping up tickets to meet their heroes.

From excited teenagers and girls in their mid-20s, to toddlers and middle aged men, the band proved they appeal

to an audience of all ages.

Fan Amy Chappell, 24, said: "It is a nice thing to see them here. It is kind of like a dream come true, even 10 years later."

While Banquet Records are better known for their pop-punk and rock shows and in-store events, Jon Tolley, owner of the store, said they were excited to welcome

the supergroup.

Mr Tolley said: "We do 200 gigs a year and I include this as one of them. It is a big one, but it is a step up from what we normally do."

"Bands like McBusted is a weird one because they are pop, but play guitars and like the pop-punk world."

The band started their signing session at 4.30pm and Banquet added a second signing session due to huge demand.

Mr Tolley said: "Everyone has bought the single to get in."

"We might make the difference between say a number five and a number three."

"It is not what we are known for but, having said that, we have done stuff with the Vamps and Conor Maynard."

"The buzz we get from putting on these events is massive. We are providing a service for other people and it never gets boring."

Biker crashes into car

A biker escaped without injury after crashing into a car on Kingston Bridge during rush hour.

Police officers were called at just before 8am on Tuesday, November 25. The man did not need treatment.

Dragon visits Bentall Centre

Former Dragons' Den star Theo Paphitis will be in Kingston today, November 27, to open his new lingerie shop.

The retail magnate will open the latest branch of Boux Avenue at the Bentall Centre at 10.45am.



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Man admits coma death manslaughter

A man who punched a father-of-four and left him in a fatal coma has admitted manslaughter.

Michael Broom, 49, of Rhodrons Avenue in Hook, pleaded guilty to one count of manslaughter at the Old Bailey on Monday morning.

He has already served a three-year prison sentence after admitting grievous bodily harm without intent in November 2011.

Broom struck Mark Haley, 46, of Holmwood Road, Hook, just outside

Tesco in Hook Parade on August 21, 2011.

The former BT engineer, who had gone out to buy milk, was airlifted to hospital with serious head injuries.

He spent two years in a coma before dying at the Royal Hospital for Neuro-Disability in Putney on August 28 last year, leading to a fresh investigation by the Metropolitan Police's homicide and serious crime command.

Broom will be sentenced at the Old Bailey on Monday, December 22.

Jogger, 39, killed by van is named

A woman who died after being hit by a van in a country lane has been named as Louisa Clare Gammie.

It is believed that Ms Gammie, 39, from Worcester Park, was hit while jogging along Old Malden Lane, Worcester Park, just after 11am on Saturday, November 8.

She was airlifted to hospital with head injuries, but died the following day. An inquest into her death has been opened and adjourned.

Witness Alfred Kovaci, 38, called the police and rushed to help her after she was hit by a black Primastar Nissan van.

He said: "I was thinking, fingers crossed, she's going to survive. It's very, very sad."

A 34-year-old man from Surbiton has been arrested on suspicion of causing death by dangerous driving and also dangerous driving.

He has been released on bail until January 8 while investigations continue.

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Problem: Bob Fleming, inset, operates LivingSun Holidays from Kingspark Court business park

DeadlinepixKT88683X

Holiday chief owes £20k after cruise plan sinks

CHIEF REPORTER
NAZIA DEWJI

ndewji@london.newsquest.co.uk



Holidaymakers have been left £20,000 out of pocket after a Christian tour operator cancelled a planned Mediterranean cruise and stalled on refunds.

New Malden-based LivingSun Holidays had scheduled a 10-day trip taking in Turkey, Greece and Israel from October 13.

But just 10 days before the ship was due to set sail, the company cancelled the cruise, citing political instability in the region leading to a drop in cruise passengers.

A letter from director Bob Fleming to customers said: "The cancellation of the cruise has left us in a difficult financial situation - we have considerable costs which are irrecoverable for us and

while we fully accept this is our problem to resolve, it means we simply do not have enough cash at the moment to start the refund process."

Speaking to the Kingston Guardian Mr Fleming said he owed about 18 people a total of £20,000 which he hoped to pay back by the end of the month. He claimed the trip was booked with Thomson Cruises, who had not paid back money to his company along with other excursion agencies, causing a ripple in the refund system.

But a statement from Thomson Cruises said: "Thomson Cruises is extremely concerned that LivingSun Holidays has been engaging in promotional activities using the Thomson Cruises trademark, as no permission has been granted for this use."

"Thomson Cruises does not have, and has never had, any



Out of pocket: Diana and Gospatric Home are waiting for £2,490

association with LivingSun Holidays and no booking for this cruise was passed to us by LivingSun Holidays."

Mr Fleming responded: "We did successfully take a group to Israel with Thomson in April so I should be sorry if they have forgotten about us so soon."

Gospatric Home, 81, was set to go on the cruise with his wife Diana.

He is currently waiting for a £2,490 refund from LivingSun Holidays.

He said: "It is a crazy saga. The money we all paid was not held in an escrow account. If it had been then he could have repaid it all to everyone."

A spokesman from Kingston Council said they would be investigating the matter.

In September 2010 Mr Fleming, of Selwyn Road, New Malden, hit the news when the Kingston Guardian reported he had admitted two counts of trading illegally by reusing a prohibited company name.

He was sentenced at Kingston Crown Court the following month and given a conditional discharge for two years.

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IN THE ZONE: Cap on Oyster card charge to be raised

Commuters face hike in off-peak rail fares

REPORTER

JON SHARMAN

jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk



Commuters in the borough could face significantly higher Oyster fares from next year when a cap on off-peak charging will be raised.

Residents who travel regularly into central London off-peak will be hit by a higher all-day rate that the Mayor of London's office said was designed "to address the needs of flexible and part-time workers".

Some whose journeys were capped at £8.50 will see that figure rise to £11.70.

A one-day travelcard including zones one to six will increase by more than one-third from £8.90 to £12 – and by two-thirds for children, from £3.60 to £6.

But Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey raised fears of even more overcrowding due to the move.

He said: "It is going to potentially make crowding at the peak even worse. This is anti-outer London. It will make no difference whether you travel after 9.30am or before."

Liberal Democrat London Assembly leader Caroline Pidgeon said: "The devil is always in the detail when it comes to the Mayor's fare proposals."

"Hidden away in the Mayor's fare package is the harsh fact people from outer London, such as Uxbridge and Kingston, and who only start their journey after 9.30am, will from the new year face significantly higher fares when using Oyster pay-as-you-go."

Conservative London Assembly member Tony Arbour said: "Overall, more Kingston residents will gain than lose under the changes."

"The removal of the peak cap will mean part-time workers can travel when it suits them rather than waiting until 9.30am."

"I should have preferred a significantly lower any-time cap, however."

Mr Johnson said: "By overhauling our fares structure we will put money back into the pockets of hundreds of thousands of hardworking people."

Transport for London's director of customer experience Shashi Verma told the Evening

Standard: "Off-peak caps have been removed and some of the caps are a bit higher."

"A cap is a cap it is not a fare and if you increase the cap it doesn't mean people end up paying the value of the higher cap."

"In any major reorganisation of this kind, it always leaves winners and losers."

She said that close to 600,000 people would benefit, while the "real losers" would be 5,000 customers.



THIEF ASSAULT:

A woman was given a conditional discharge after she admitted stealing jewellery and assaulting another woman at Superdrug in Kingston. Kathleen Bayley, 30, of Mansfield Road, Chessington, was also ordered to pay compensation of £50, prosecution costs of £85 and a victim surcharge of £15 at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on Friday, November 14.

AMBULANCE CRASH:

A driver was taken to hospital after a crash involving an ambulance and car in Surbiton. The collision happened just after 9am in Surbiton Hill Road at the junction with Maple Road on the morning of Tuesday, November 18. The car driver was taken to a south London hospital. A member of the public also received minor injuries.

MAN STABBED: Police are investigating after a man was found stabbed in Chessington. The man, thought to be aged 20, collapsed near the Kingston George Field indoor bowls club in Jubilee Way on Tuesday, November 18. His injuries were not serious and he was released from hospital the same night. Kingston police are investigating.



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OUTLET**

Needle exchange plan pulled

A needle exchange will no longer be a part of the Kingston Wellbeing Service at its new location – wherever that turns out to be.

Public health bosses at Kingston Council have bowed to residents' safety concerns, and have also promised visible CCTV and an emergency phone line at the as-yet-unknown site.

But a new report to councillors suggests the options are limited to just three: Surbiton Health Centre – the current base – Acre Road in Kingston and the previously-mooted Hollyfield House.

In September a consultation into moving the service collapsed, throwing into

doubt the union of drug rehabilitation and psychological therapy staff.

Many of the service's needle exchanges are already carried out at pharmacies.

A total of 27 premises were surveyed in the new review, but most were found to be too small or lacking facilities or public transport access.

The council has promised a more rigorous consultation this time around, after accusations it did not talk to enough residents or councillors during the first one in August.

New plans will be debated at a meeting tonight, Thursday, November 27, at 7.40pm in Guildhall.

Have your say

on the proposal for a new tunnel under the Thames at Silvertown

We'd like your opinion on a new tunnel at Silvertown, which is part of a package of proposed river crossings. The new tunnel will:

- Provide a new road crossing across the Thames
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- Support the creation of new jobs and homes
- Create the opportunity for new public transport connections

We'd also like your views on a proposed range of charging options for the Blackwall and Silvertown Tunnels. Charging would be implemented from the early 2020s once the Silvertown Tunnel construction is complete to help manage demand and fund the new tunnel.

To find out more please visit tfl.gov.uk/silvertown-tunnel or call 0343 222 1234*

The consultation ends 19 December 2014

*Calls from BT landlines cost up to 5p per minute. Cost of calls from other lines may vary.



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DYSART EXPANSION: Neighbouring school told it 'could not develop on same land'

Special needs school to expand

CHIEF REPORTER

NAZIA DEWJI

ndewji@
london.newsquest.co.uk

A proposal to expand a special needs school has been approved, despite opposition from governors at a neighbouring school.

Dysart School, in Ewell Road, Surbiton, wants to create 24 extra spaces for students with complex learning difficulties using a £1,000,250 grant from the Education Funding Agency.

It plans to build classrooms for post-16 students on playing fields at the back of the school site, on land owned by Kingston Council and shared with St Matthew's Primary School, in Langley Road.

But governors at St Matthew's have written to

Kingston Council chief executive Bruce McDonald accusing the authority of a "fait accompli".

A letter from Wendy Wilkinson, chairwoman of governors at St Matthew's, was made public at the children, youth and leisure committee on Tuesday last week, before councillors approved the expansion.

The letter read: "It should be made known that any considerations by St Matthew's to build on some of the land now to be developed by Dysart School never reached fruition as we were informed we would never be allowed to develop the land, thwarting any vision we may have had for improving our school."

"As a result, it was sensitively turned into our prized nature area. Imagine our



Expansion: Dysart School; Headteacher Leigh Edser KT87898

surprise when permission was granted to Dysart School to build on the land, which has been a part of St

Matthew's School for some 40 years. Our attempts to have our concerns addressed, up to this point,

have been dealt with in a very dismissive manner, as if the project is a fait accompli and our concerns have a nuisance value only."

Surbiton councillor and leader of the opposition Liz Green said: "I don't think St Matthew's is particularly against expansion at Dysart, they recognise the need – the issues are about planning."

Dysart headteacher Leigh Edser said: "The Dysart community is over the moon. It means that we can move forward and ensure that we can provide extra places."

A planning application is yet to be submitted but, if approved, building work is expected to start in January 2015 and be completed within five months.

Dysart currently has 72 children, aged four to 19.

ILLEGAL SCREENING: The supervisor of a Chessington pub has been fined £1,500 for illegally screening football on Sky. Sandra Creane, of the Lucky Rover in Hook Road, was also ordered to pay £1,500 prosecution costs and a £50 victim surcharge at Staines Magistrates' Court in October.

DRIVING BAN: James Geoffrey Yates must carry out 150 hours of unpaid work after being caught three-and-a-half times over the drink-drive limit. Yates, 31, of Cobham Road, Kingston, admitted the offence and was banned from driving for two-and-a-half years at Wimbledon Magistrates' Court on November 18.

LOO TIME: A New Malden pub has won an award – for the quality of its loos. The Watchman, in High Street, was awarded a platinum star rating by inspectors at the Loo of the Year Awards. Inspectors make unannounced visits to loos across the UK and judge them on decor, maintenance, cleanliness and accessibility.

CHARITY DONATION: The Kingston Probud Club, whose members are retired professionals or businessmen and women, donated £50 to the mayor of Kingston's charitable trust. The money will go to support the Royal Kingston Scout District, Girlguiding in Kingston and Malden and Surbiton, Kingston and District Sea Cadets and the Horse Rangers Association.

XMAS CARDS: Christmas cards designed by Kingston College students are being sold for charity. Money raised will go to help Vision Malawi, which supports children and vulnerable people. Visit africanvision.org.uk/shop.

Let there be lights: Don't miss the procession and switch-on

If you missed the big switch-on in Kingston, you can still get into the festive spirit when Surbiton and New Malden turn on their Christmas lights this week.

Be sure not to miss Surbiton's Christmas special today, Thursday, November

27, when a procession marches through the town, and a light show is projected on to the iconic art deco station.

There will also be a market in Brighton Road and live music in Cottage Grove.

The lights will go on at 5pm,

but events start from 3pm at the station, and the projection show will begin at 4.30pm.

In New Malden, a live band will feature in the Christmas lights switch-on for the first time.

There will also be a

children's choir, and Father Christmas will make his way down from the High Street to St George's Square where presents will be handed out tomorrow, Friday, November 28, from 5.30pm.

In Tolworth, business owners will reveal their efforts to

brighten the area with window light displays, and judging of the competition will take place from 5pm on Friday, December 5.

Head along to Princes Avenue to see the Christmas tree lit up before judging takes place.

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MOVING ON: Newsagent takes role as platform supervisor

New job is perfect platform for vendor

REPORTER

JON SHARMAN

jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

He has sold papers and chocolate to the likes of Seb Coe, Art Malik and John Altman, not to mention the thousands of commuters who set off to work every day from Surbiton station.

But now newsagent John Greig is stepping outside his kiosk – and on to the platform.

Mr Greig, who has run the kiosk on platform one at Surbiton for more than six years, has taken a job with South West Trains.

He will take over as a platform supervisor at Effingham Junction, but not before completing two weeks of training at Surbiton.

He said: "I like what I do – I have some really good customers, some lovely customers. It's sad really."

"The rent here goes up every three years and it's due to go up next year, and that's me maxed out."

"I want to thank all my customers for all their custom."

"If they want to buy a bar fridge, let me know."

He said he serves about 500 people a day at Surbiton, including the occasional celebrity.

Before taking over the kiosk he worked at the newsagent's outside



Off on a new track: John Greig is shutting up shop after six years at Surbiton station

Deadlinepix KT88554

the station, now known as Taylor News, for some 11 years.

He said: "Some of them play football for me and I play against some of them, so it's good fun."

"There's plenty of conversation – a nice mix."

"But customers are slowly going. A lot of them go on their apps – you can't keep up. Paper is a kind of dying industry."

Mr Greig has seen the number of people using Surbiton station swell over the years.

Now he believes the kiosk will be removed after he leaves, to ease overcrowding on the platforms.

On Monday, when a trespasser at Clapham Junction caused huge delays for commuters, the platform was so packed he was trapped in his kiosk, he said.

Now Mr Greig, 47, from Sutton, is looking forward to his new job – the hours are good and he will still be able to make the school run.

He said: "South West Trains have been really good with me."

Co-op ram-raider is jailed

A man has been jailed for four years after ramming a car into a supermarket and stealing £10,500 worth of cigarettes in an early morning smash-and-grab raid.

The window of the Co-op supermarket in New Malden High Street was smashed after a car hurtled into it at about 3am on Friday, October 3.

Darren Anthony Gartell, 33, of no fixed address, was sentenced to four years at Kingston Crown Court on Thursday, November 6, for

burglary and one year for trespassing with intent to steal, to run concurrently.

He had pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing.

Residents were woken by the sound of the smashing glass and they alerted police.

An officer on patrol who saw two balaclava-clad people loading up a car before driving off, was unable to stop the pair.

Police seized the stolen cigarettes from an address in New Addington some days after the burglary.



Jailed: Gartell

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This additional service is to help address patients' urgent medical needs at weekends during the Winter months. The GPs in the clinics will NOT have access to patients' full medical records. Patients should therefore arrange to see their own GP in normal surgery hours for on-going treatment of longer term conditions.

* Chessington clinics finish ½ hour earlier.
Potential to extend clinic times later in the Winter

Day the music died?

CHIEF REPORTER
NAZIA DEWJI

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london.newsquest.co.uk



Almost 70 years worth of live music could be coming to an end at an iconic Kingston pub – depending on what direction a new landlord wants to take the venue.

Richard Fletcher, landlord of the Grey Horse in Richmond Road, will be retiring after 15 years running the town centre pub that has drawn music-lovers for years.

He will be moving to Kent in January and the pub is expected to undergo refurbishment for some months after.

Rumours have been circulating for months that the venue will be revamped into a gastro pub when Mr Fletcher leaves, potentially bringing the curtain down on the Grey Horse's long history of live entertainment.

But this week Mr Fletcher said: "Everybody is asking me whether the live music is closing – that's the million dollar question that people keep asking me."

"It is down to whoever takes over the pub what they want to do with it. At the moment I don't know if anybody has been found."

"It would be a shame because there has been live music here for nearly 70 years. Now that the Peel is gone, our live music venues are down."

The Sir Robert Peel, in Cambridge Road, had seen the likes of the Vaccines, Jamie T, Gallows



Changing hands: The Grey Horse in Richmond Road

KT8444

and John Newman perform there before it closed on April 27 and has since been demolished.

Musician James Goldsmith wrote on the Grey Horse's Facebook page: "It's a tragedy for music and culture in Kingston that the time has come for last orders."

"Whatever the reasons, I want to thank you sincerely for providing local (and not so local) artists with a platform to develop and perform."

But Mr Fletcher said: "If people were visiting the venue then it would not be changing."

Banquet Records co-founder Jon Tolley, who runs a number of live music events in Kingston, including the weekly New Slang night at McClusky's, said: "Any live music venue closing is bad, but if that's market forces then that's what it is."

Young's area manager Jeff

Bygraves said the company was "hopeful" any new tenant would want to continue with live entertainment, but added: "The live music aspect of the pub will really be in the hands of the operator."

He said: "We have had quite a lot of interest. At the moment we have got a number of people who are looking at it, but as of yet we have no fixed plans for the pub."

He said the Grey Horse will "most definitely" continue as a pub.

The Grey Horse's famed Crack Comedy nights, which have brought in comedians such as Michael McIntyre and Dara O'Briain, could also be under threat.

It is unclear what will happen to the Ram Jam Club, a small live venue at the back of the Grey Horse, which hosts gigs, film nights and philosophy groups.

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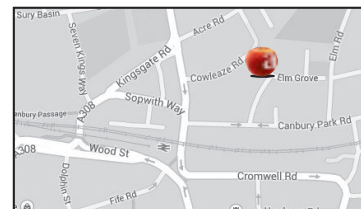
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ONLINE OPINION

Comment on stories at kingstonguardian.co.uk

Higher cap on off-peak fares

Boris Johnson personally signed off these TfL fare rises. How can he possibly justify a 38% increase for zone 6 off-peak commuters (Surbiton, Kingston, Chessington)?

SURBONYMOUS

Special needs school decision

I think the council is right on this one. The decision made to St Matthews was made under the old Lib Dem administration; the decision to help those in need such as those who attend Dysart was taken under the new administration.

BEVERLEY RA

Mobile phone signal campaign

A complete waste of time, we recently had a mast turned down in Kingston and local councillors were over the moon. Everyone wants the technology, but they all want the hardware outside someone else's house or in another street.

MICK M

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If complaining about third party comments on our website articles, you should use the "report this post" function online next to the comment.

Roundabout way to cause driver chaos

The new lane priorities are not working at the Ace of Spades roundabout, particularly when joining from the A3 from the east, at Tolworth, or from the west, like the slip road next to the Cap in Hand.

The new signage advises drivers that those queuing in the left lane must turn left, and all other traffic must queue in the right lane, including those intending to go straight ahead, which goes against the roundabout advice that is given in the Highway Code.

In practice, what happens is that those in the right-hand lane going straight ahead get cut up by those in the left lane also going straight ahead.

Also, those joining the roundabout from the south (Chessington) and intending to turn left towards Esher, seeing a car in the inside lane, assume that it is going all the way round towards Surbiton, and they start to join the roundabout, only to find that the other car is also heading towards Esher.

Add to this confusion the fact

that many drivers now queue in the left-hand lane and then go all the way around the roundabout, effectively turning right, and it is a wonder there have not been more road accidents there.

I think we should either have the signage changed back to how it was, so that those in the left lane turn left or go straight on, and those in the right lane turn right.

Alternatively, have road kerbing added to ensure that those in the left lane do actually turn left.

CHRIS HEATHER
 Chessington

Borough view



Richard Mason snapped this view of Hampton Court Palace. To see your photo featured in Borough View, email it with details of where you took it to jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk.

We must work towards a peaceful co-existence

Jews are not defined by the Holocaust, but by 5,500 years of continuous history, much of which was without a national home.

They gave the world two great religions and a moral code, personal and global, which now has international recognition.

Their contribution to the sum of human knowledge is vast considering their small and scattered population.

We should be proud and should celebrate that achievement.

The Nuremberg trials of 1946

saw the execution of those responsible for the Holocaust. Germany was obliged to pay reparations. The Gypsies were not so lucky.

The British could not stop the tide of desperate, frightened and damaged Jewish refugees that flooded the shores of Palestine at that time.

The acts of violence perpetrated by the Palestinians are no different from those of the Jewish Stern gang operating during the 1940s when they blew up the King David Hotel in Jerusalem, killing 92

people, mainly British personnel. We cannot put the genie back into the bottle – we have to deal here and now with the mayhem it caused and then move on.

The Palestinians have a right to compensation and a homeland with territorial integrity, without blockade or economic sanctions and at liberty to choose the Government of their choice.

Peaceful co-existence is negotiable.

RITA LEECH
 Chessington

Council wants to close excellent care home

Our local choir has twice enjoyed performing our songs to an audience of older residents at Murray House.

We have been made welcome in this well managed and very pleasant centre and I have been very impressed each time by the high standards of care, creative

activities and warmth we encountered there.

I wish my own mother had been able to spend her final days in such a good care home when she was elderly and suffering from dementia.

How sad the council is proposing to close down this excellent

facility, that provides such a high quality of support, companionship and comfort to our older residents, many of whom have contributed to Kingston's educational, economic, social and community life and welfare.

JENNY BOURNE
 Hampton Wick

Fair fares for commuters

The Mayor of London's decision to lower the cap on daily Oyster fares will benefit the millions of part-time and home workers in Kingston, and across London, who do not need to commute by Tube or rail for five days a week.

It also gives people a real incentive to cut their costs by cycling to work for a day or two a week.

Making commuting cheaper and easier for people with varied work and travel patterns is a priority for me, and after two policy reports and a recent 90-day public consultation for Londoners, I am pleased the Mayor and transport bosses have listened and are acting.

Now that we have taken the first step, we should go further to bear down on fares for everybody by completely reforming Transport for London (TfL) and cutting waste.

Let us get on with fast tracking the introduction of driverless trains, introducing sponsorship on the Tube and scrapping free nominee travel passes for friends and flatmates of TfL staff.

These common-sense policies would save hundreds of millions of pounds every year, yet more cash that can be put back into the pockets of Londoners.

TONY ARBOUR
 Greater London Authority
 Conservative member
 for Kingston

Thank you taxi driver

I would like to use the pages of this newspaper to say thank you to the kind taxi driver who stopped and assisted my father on Tuesday, November 11, at about 4.30pm in Malden Road, New Malden.

My dad, in his confused state, had walked up Cromwell Avenue, in his dressing gown and slippers, and then fallen.

This kind cabbie had called an ambulance and waited with him until help arrived.

Thank you for your kindness.

If you would like to contact me via the paper, I have a blanket of yours to return.

NAME AND ADDRESS SUPPLIED

TWEETS of the WEEK



@IllegallyBald: Just waited 12 mins for a coffee @CostaCoffee New Malden, the attitude I got when I complained, wondering what the froth might actually be.

@AliceFowles: Slight over reaction from the guy I asked to pick up the litter he dropped on Surbiton. Called me a disgusting wh**e!!!

@GeorgeTheRocker: Have never been so unenthusiastic about a gig. I'm playing Kingston SU tonight. No one come along. Unless you wanna see a p***ed off drummer.

@KingstonHospNHS: Our new urology diagnostic clinic the Albany Unit is officially open!

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew and Raymond Gubbay present

Christmas at Kew

As twilight falls,
the magic begins...



New for 2014, Kew Gardens winter landscape offers something for everyone. Guided by snowflakes, the new one mile glittering trail winds its way through the world famous botanic gardens in a magical after dark experience.

Wander between glowing waterside reflections, illuminated fountains and grand glasshouses as Kew's iconic architecture and unique tree canopies are brought to life drenched in Christmas colour.

Along the way gaze at giant light sculptures, bright and luminous like fireworks frozen in time, walk the shimmering **Tunnel of Lights** and perhaps steal a kiss at **Mistletoe Moments**. Stand amongst twinkling holly bushes and Christmas trees festooned with seasonal cheer as plumes of fire dance to festive music inspired by *The Nutcracker* set against a frosty, snow-flaked **Palm House Panorama**.



Keep warm under the stars with a mulled wine, spiced cider, or hot chocolate as well as roasting chestnuts, toasted marshmallows and other traditional fayre, as you make your way along the trail. Why not browse Kew's well-stocked shops filled with hand-picked gifts and have Christmas all wrapped up.

Soak up the playful atmosphere at **White Peaks** where the Victorian carousel, family rides* and outdoor adventure playground provide fun for the young ones. Although it's a really busy time of year for him, Santa and his Elves will be heading straight to Kew Gardens in November. **Santa's Snowflake Grotto** will soon become one of the most magical and popular spots to meet the jolly man in red.



Tickets advance / on the day

Adults	£15 / £17
Family**	£45 / £50
Child 4-16	£10 / £12
Under 4s	Free

Pre paid parking at Brentford Gate
£7 to be booked with ticket/time slot

Book at:

kew.org/christmas
0844 995 9675

raymondgubbay.co.uk
0844 847 2319

All tickets are subject to a single transaction charge
£2 per transaction for print at home tickets, £2.50 for
tickets sent by first class post. £1.00 when booking tickets
in person at Kew.

See kew.org/Christmas for further information and full
terms and conditions. On the day prices apply from
midnight on the day prior to your visit.

*Separate charges apply for Santa's Snowflake Grotto.
Closed after 23 December and not open 4, 11, 13 & 20
December.

**Family ticket 2 adults and 2 children (aged 4-16)



26 November - 3 January

Open between 5-10pm



The future of the former Dairy Crest site

HAVE YOUR SAY

Where will they be held?

Antoinette Hotel Kingston, Beaufort Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 2TQ

When will they be held?

Thursday 4 December from 3.30pm to 8pm
Saturday 6 December from 10am to 3pm

Ensco is delighted to invite you to two consultation events being held on Thursday 4 December 2014 and Saturday 6 December 2014 to discuss the future of the former Dairy Crest site on the corner of Villiers Avenue and Lower Marsh Lane, Surbiton.



If you can't make it to the events, don't worry, we are still very keen to hear your feedback and answer any questions you may have for the future of the former Dairy Crest site. Please contact Tom at thomasatkinson@bellenden.co.uk or on 020 7234 3330 if you have any comments or questions.

Signalling an end to mobile 'not-spots'?

REPORTER

JON SHARMAN

jon.sharman@london.newsquest.co.uk

It is an all too common and frustrating 21st century problem – wanting to make a call or watch a video on your phone only to see the little bars at the top of the screen disappear.

But now an MEP has launched a campaign to hold phone service providers to account.

London Conservative Syed Kamall, a Kingston resident, is asking people who experience poor mobile signal to log their locations at a new website, nobarscampaign.co.uk.

The politician said mobiles are a "lifeline for sick and elderly people" as well as parents keeping in touch with children.

He added: "London is the most



Call: Syed Kamall wants to hold service providers to account over mobile reception

communications."

Loss of signal is a common complaint around the borough, with Surbiton and Kingston being hotspots for grumbling.

The familiar situation of being unable to get a signal in Kingston town centre has seen some phone users dub the phenomenon, the "Kingston dip".

Kingston and Surbiton MP Edward Davey said: "I think we are completely at one on this. In the coalition we have been working on 'not-spots'. We've been working with the industry to work out how they can end the existent not-spots."

A Government consultation into tackling the "not-spots", run by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, is open until midnight on November 26.

To find out more, visit gov.uk/government/consultations.

important communications hub in the world. It is unacceptable that so much of the city has a poor signal or no signal at all.

"People find it infuriating when they rely on their phones, but then find it difficult or impossible to make a simple call or access emails."

"A first class global city should not have to put up with third rate

Lorries' access

Transport for London is asking for residents' views on lorry access to the Cox Lane industrial estate in Chessington. To give your view, visit consultations.tfl.gov.uk before December 9.

Taste of Korea

Visitors to Tesco in New Malden got a taste of Korea as a trade delegation stopped by to promote the region's cuisine, supported by the South Korean embassy, on Tuesday last week.

Cakes for Xmas

Kids can learn how to decorate Christmas cakes and more at a festive cooking party. The Sassy Stirrers workshop will be held in St Andrew's Church, Surbiton, from 2.30pm to 5pm on December 6. For details or to book call 07789 792676.

Father Christmas is now sending out personalised letters to all good boys and girls!

To order your letter from
Only £3.00 FATHER CHRISTMAS

Text: **TINSELL** (space) the child's full name, boy or girl, address and full postcode and send to **80360**

Example:
TINSELL Holly Smith,
Girl, 12 Ivy Lane,
Snowdon, LL1 2XM.

Texts cost £3 plus standard text charge. 1-text per child. Father Christmas will start delivering on 3rd November, so order early! Text lines are now open and close **15th December 23:59**. Call freephone: 0808 118 4948 for enquiries Mon-Fri 9am-5pm. Newsquest Media Group.

CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY!



TINGLE CREEK CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

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SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER 2014**

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Calls cost 5ppm from a BT landline, other networks may vary and calls from mobiles may cost significantly more.



THE REPTILES

RETURN OF THE REPTILES

The Reptiles are putting on their Christmas concert with a night filled with 1960s, 70s and 80s hits.

Funds raised go to help Creative Youth and the International Youth Arts Festival.

Frontman Robin Hutchinson says: "After over 25 years of

playing together we have just about learned many of the songs. This gig will see our new line-up with Prawn Boy on the drums and our brass section the Lizards."

● **The Reptiles; Arthur Cotterel Theatre, Kingston Hall Road; December 13, 7pm; £10; visit rosetheatre.kingston.org, or call 08444 821 556.**

Vibe

Vibe SHORTS

ALONG THE WATCHTOWER: A series of paintings by legendary musician Bob Dylan are on display in Kingston. The Drawn Blank series has been critically acclaimed for providing an insight into the singer-songwriter's mind. The eight limited-edition graphics are on display at Castle Fine Art in Fife Road.

● **Drawn Blank; Castle Fine Art, Fife Road, Kingston; for information call 020 3051 9539 or visit castlefineart.com.**

ARTFUL CREW: The Artful Dodgers will display their most recent work at Surbiton's Cornerhouse. The artists hope their work, in a variety of media, will inspire people to open their eyes to the beauty that can be found within just a few miles of their homes. Many of the pictures were created in outdoor sessions.

● **Artful Dodgers; Cornerhouse, Douglas Road, Surbiton; December 1 to January 4. visit thecornerhouse.org.**

MERRY MEN: He robbed from the rich and gave to the poor – but St Paul's Players are asking you to come to their annual panto so they can donate proceeds to Mind. The community group's show will be the classic tale of Robin Hood.

● **St Paul's Players' Robin Hood; Hook and Southborough Parish Hall, Hook Road; November 28 and 29, and December 5 and 6, 2.30pm and 8pm; £10 adults, £6 children; call 020 8397 3515.**

BANG THE DRUM: Fancy trying your hand at a musical instrument, but don't know which to pick? Come along to Kingston Music Service's Come and Play day to have a go on a trumpet, violin, tambourine or a piano – the choice is yours.

● **Come and Play; Tolworth Girls' School, Fullers Way North, Tolworth; December 4, 4.30pm to 6.30pm; email musicservice@kingston.gov.uk.**

FEEL MY WREATH: Try your hand at wreath-making this Christmas at Heal's. Kids can get into the festive spirit too with a separate session.

● **Wreath-making; Heal's, Eden Street, Kingston; December 18, 6.30pm to 8.30pm; £40; kids' session December 13, 10am to 11.30am; £15; visit heals.co.uk/events.**

PICTURE THIS: A bright prints photography exhibition has popped up in a New Malden cafe this month.

● **Exhibition by Bright Images Photography; Cafe Galio, 105 High Street, New Malden; ongoing, 8.30am to 5.30pm; call 020 8949 4938.**

THE LION, THE WITCH, AND THE WARDROBE

● **Rose Theatre, Kingston; November 30 to January 4; various times; £10 - £27; rosetheatrekingston.org, 020 8174 0090**

HOMETOWN GIRL

Rose Youth Theatre actress Thomy Lawson tells MOLLY O'SHEA how playing Susan in *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* could be the start of something big

As possible big breaks go, it is not a bad one. Starring in your hometown's highly-anticipated Christmas show, alongside friends from your own theatre group – lots of aspiring young actors can only dream of such an opportunity.

Certainly 17-year-old Thomy Lawson, who will play Susan in the Rose Theatre's seasonal production of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, knows what a chance this is.

"It is one of those experiences that is once in a lifetime," says Thomy, a student at Surbiton High School.

"I'm absolutely terrified,

but so excited.

"The whole cast is buzzing and we are counting down the days until the opening performance."

Thomy is just one member of the Rose Youth theatre who will be taking to the stage

as one of the four Pevensie children.

Three groups of Rose Youth Theatre members will take on the leading roles of Edmund, Susan, Peter and Lucy, rotating each night the show is performed.

THOMY LAWSON



Thomy is part of the "red" team, and will be performing with fellow youth theatre members Gwithian Evans (Edmund), Callum Cronin (Peter) and Katie Ashman (Lucy).

Thomy and her team were at this month's Narnia-inspired Christmas lights switch-on, where they performed the song Aslan's On the Move from the Theresa Heskings-adapted show.

"It was the first time we'd performed anything publicly to do with the show," says Thomy.

"It was rewarding to see that people were enjoying it and lots of people told us that they were going to be

booking tickets."

The young actor is hoping the performance "could be the start of something".

She says: "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe has brought people from both inside and outside the Rose Youth Theatre together to create something special – we have all become a little family.

"It's one of those books that everyone knows and loves and the script is pretty much identical to the speech in the book.

"It is literally like the book has been tipped up on to the stage. It's magic.

"I think it will be beautiful to watch."

FOR MORE ON THESE AND OTHER STORIES VISIT kingstonguardian.co.uk/vibe**Vibe**

SCRUMS & SPLASHES

On Thursday evenings in a swimming pool, just a few miles from Twickenham, the home of Rugby, 25 players don flippers and snorkels to play the underwater version of the sport, writes **Matt Cooper**.

The Pure Underwater Rugby Club is the first underwater rugby club in the UK and they hold training sessions at Putney Leisure centre.

Oli Kraus, 33, works in publishing and

set up the club after playing the game in Slovakia.

He says: "I see it as an adrenaline sport.

"You are underwater, holding your breath and trying to get hold of the ball.

"You may not have enough air left – but you want to push it."

Although popular in Europe, particularly in Germany, the sport is widely unknown in the UK.

Nevertheless, the club in Putney has grown since being set up last year, and in May they made their international debut at the Firenze Tournament in Italy, where they took on teams from across Europe.

Underwater rugby is played between two teams of

up to 12. Players pass a ball, filled with salt water so it sinks, in any direction and try to get it into the opponents' goal, which is a basket at the bottom of the deep pool.

The ball must not leave the water and can move through the pool about two to three metres before water resistance stops it.

Kraus says: "There are not many injuries. You may get a few bruises, but the water deflects the impact of any collisions."

So what's next for underwater rugby in the UK? After all, it has been played in Germany since the 1960s, but has only just begun here. Kraus has

received questions from people eager to start up clubs in different parts of the UK, however, the sport has certain requirements that can be hard to find.

Kraus says: "It can be a challenge to find the right size pool.

"You also need specialist equipment – such as underwater baskets for the goals."

This hasn't stopped the Putney club from coming along strongly, however, and they have been invited to a string of further tournaments in Europe since

their debut in Italy.

• The Pure Underwater Rugby Club hold training sessions at Putney Leisure Centre on Thursdays from 9pm to 10.30pm. Visit underwater-rugby.webs.com.

**UNDERWATER RUGBY****Vibe**

WHAT'S ON

kingstonguardian.co.uk/advertisingTO ADVERTISE: ☎ 020 8722 6405 @ entertainmentads@london.newsquest.co.uk**Car Boot Sales****GRAND CAR BOOT SALE**

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Buyers 50p, £2 before 8am

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Peter Pan flies into Polka Theatre

Adventure soars to the sky this winter as Polka Theatre presents a new adaptation of JM Barrie's Peter Pan, written and directed by Polka's artistic director Peter Glanville, running from now until February 14, 2015.

Beyond the stars a thrilling adventure awaits as Peter Pan and Tinker Bell whisk Wendy and her brothers off to Neverland

where he must help the lost boys battle the villainous Captain Hook. JM Barrie's enchanting classic takes flight in a stunning show for the whole family, bursting with original songs, puppetry, swashbuckling fun and fairy dust.

Young audiences aged six and over and their families will love the thrilling battles of lost boys,

daring escapes of flying children and heartfelt moments as Wendy and Peter's friendship develops.

The production incorporates breathtaking puppetry into the live action. The puppetry is designed by world-renowned puppet-maker Sue Dacre.

Sue has designed puppets internationally for Jim Henson and is crafting a luminous Tinker Bell, graceful mermaids, scary crocodiles and incredible flying puppets.

Peter Glanville, director of Peter Pan says: "Peter Pan has been described as the greatest story ever told and I agree with this. On one level it's a cracking adventure story in a fantasy world with pirates, fairies and flying children but it also draws us in emotionally."

Peter Pan is on at the Polka Theatre now until February 14, 2015. Tickets are priced £17.50 (£11.50 concessions) with a £1.50 transaction charge per booking. Call the box office on 020 8543 4888 or book online at www.polkatheatre.com. Recommended for ages six plus with all ages welcome.



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Polka Theatre, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1SB

Presented by arrangement with Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity and Samuel French Limited

What's on this Winter

Advertisement feature

Fun throughout the Winter Season of 2014 – 2015

Get dancing



The Sunray Club at the Sunray Community Centre in Tolworth aims to provide quality entertainment and a welcoming environment.

The centre offers linedancing tuition for all levels on three evenings a week on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and for beginners only on Thursday mornings.

Linedancing weekends are also held in March and October.

There are more dance lessons during the day with the Lucinda Walsh Children's School of dance.

A women's club and bingo sessions take place on alternate Wednesdays. Live entertainment is offered at the club's regular monthly socials.

Visit www.sunrayclubtolworth.co.uk, telephone: 07885 543886 or email: sundowner-sldc@hotmail.co.uk for more information.

The Tiffin Girls' School Craft Fair

Sunday 30th November • 11am to 3pm.

Over 60 professional stalls selling gifts and crafts.

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Wednesday 17th December
7.30pm Carol Concert led by the choir of Richard Challoner School

Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve
First Mass of Christmas: 4.00pm Children's Mass 7.00pm (with carols) 10.00pm replacing Midnight Mass (preceded by readings & carols from 9.30pm)

Thursday 25th December Christmas Day
Mass 7.30am (This will be a quiet Mass with no carols or homily.)
Mass 9.30am (with carols), Mass 11.15am (with carols)
There are NO evening services on Christmas Day
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Live life to the full

Would you like 2015 to be a time of high energy and inner peace? If the answer is yes then Christina Maria Langley is the person to contact. She can help you look and feel better now, and prevent illness in the future.

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Christina is fully qualified and insured for a full list of her qualifications visit willowtreeyoga.co.uk. For more information telephone 020 8661 0455.

Give someone the gift of guitar lessons

For that special present this year why not buy your loved one guitar lessons this Christmas?

Paul Davies gives one to one private guitar lessons at his home studio in Surbiton.

He says: "I teach everyone from complete beginners to those wishing to take their playing to the next level as well as those who want to get out of the rut of playing the same things over and over."

He works closely with the Registry of Guitar Tutors (RGT) and can offer graded guitar exams in electric, acoustic and bass guitar playing.

He adds: "However, if exams and technical studying are not your thing, then I also offer one to one

lessons working on the things you want to learn.

"Each lesson is individually tailored to student's needs. Don't feel shy if playing guitar has always been something you wanted to do but were afraid to try. There is no age limit to learning the guitar - it really is never too late to start."

"This year RGT has introduced formal exams and lessons in playing the ukulele. This is a great way to start playing an instrument closely related to guitar playing with hundreds of your favourite songs available to play."

Visit www.pauldavesguitar.co.uk, call or text 07718 756250 or email paul.davies31@blueyonder.co.uk.



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PROPERTY

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Tougher lending makes it harder to buy

House prices are continuing to slow and new buyer demand tailed off in October, according to the latest RICS Residential Market Survey.

Nationally, new buyer demand slipped for the fourth consecutive month with London bearing the brunt of the decline, as 62 per cent more surveyors reported a fall in new buyer demand across the capital. Meanwhile across the rest of the UK, demand dipped to a net balance of minus 18 per cent.

As a result of the weaker trend in buyer interest, sales expectations are at their lowest point since the beginning of the year and the picture regarding near term price expectations is not dissimilar.

Stock coming onto the market remained virtually unchanged in October continuing the trend which has been in place for much of the past year.

As a result, even with the dip in demand, much anecdotal evidence from surveyors points to an ongoing challenge in

securing adequate new instructions.

At a national level, the slowdown in buyer activity in the sales market stands in marked contrast to the lettings market, where tenant demand continues to grow strongly.

Rent expectations remain generally firm with respondents anticipating an increase of around 2.5 per cent over the next 12 months across the whole of the country.

Simon Rubinsohn, RICS Chief Economist, said: "The flatter trend in the market is partly a reflection of potential buyers becoming a little more cautious about making a purchase as more stringent lending criteria has made it harder to access mortgage finance."

"An increasing awareness of the approaching general election also appears to be contributing to the softer market if the responses to the latest survey are anything to go by. However, with new instructions still flat at a headline level as has been the



The looming election is also impacting on the market

case for most of the last year it seems implausible that the dip in demand will result in very much of a decline in house prices.

Meanwhile, the RICS says demand to rent property is

growing as the sales market slows and this, coupled with a drop in supply of new stock to let, is helping to underpin the rental outlook for landlords pretty much across the whole of the country."

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Keep an eye on neighbours

People are being urged to keep an eye on elderly neighbours to make sure they don't fall victim to the 'silent killer' - carbon monoxide.

This week is Carbon Monoxide Week which has been launched to raise awareness of how this odourless gas can cause loss of consciousness and, in severe cases, death.

The campaign is being backed by Colemans, a national law firm which is campaigning for a new law to make CO detectors mandatory in rental properties.

Melanie Burden, a partner at law firm Colemans-ctts which has represented several victims of carbon monoxide poisoning,

said: "This is the time of year when the heating is turned on and people stay indoors. It's also the time of year which sees an increase in carbon monoxide poisoning."

"Elderly people are especially vulnerable, especially if they are housebound or frail."

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"This deadly gas kills 40 people every year in Britain, according to NHS statistics, however it is feared that the numbers of actual CO related deaths could be significantly higher."

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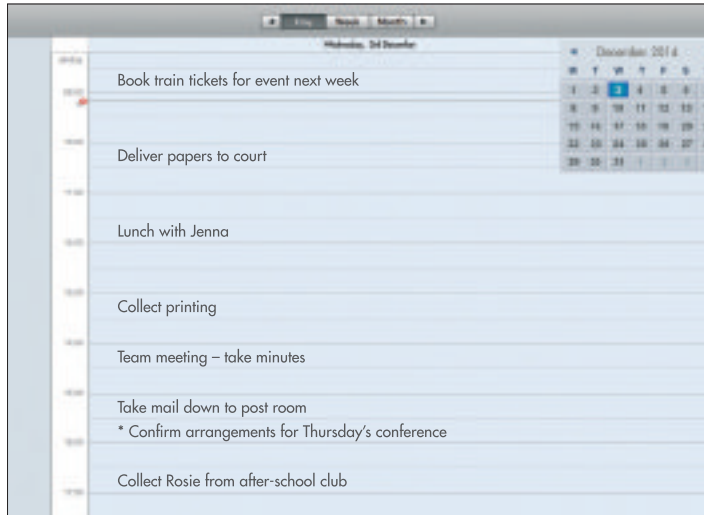
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News

Pricely parking

UK drivers cause nearly three quarters of a billion pounds worth of damage annually simply parking their cars, according to research by Accident Exchange.

Costing £1,428 on average to repair vehicle damage, car park prangs are second only to rear-end shunts as the most common kind of car accident.

Up nearly four per cent since 2010, it is estimated that there are 500,000 car parking collisions of this type annually, or an eye-watering 1,373 every day.

The replacement vehicle provider to the motor industry found most parking incidents take place at low speeds but that does not stop motorists damaging doors, wheels, bumpers and other parts of the bodywork.



STAR IN A CAR: Aggie Mackenzie

Happy to be driven around

Journalist and broadcaster Aggie MacKenzie is best known for the Channel 4 TV series *How Clean Is Your House?* She has also fronted the ITV show, *Storage Hoarders*. She also fundraises for the Hackney Youth Orchestra Trust and is a patron of the South African charity Ukuthasa, which works in HIV Aids education and counselling. Visit aggie.mackenzie.co.uk or follow her on Twitter @AggieMacKenzie

What was your first car?

It was an ancient battered, orange Triumph Spitfire. My dad, a blacksmith, had bought it as scrap for £15. The floor was made up mostly of holes and so he welded in a new floor, got it MOT'd and gave it to me as a surprise before I went back to college. I was really chuffed.

How many times did it take to pass your test?

I was taught by a retired police inspector who used to pick me up after school each week for my lesson. I was taught in a Morris 1100. Passed at 17, first time.

Who would be your ideal fantasy

passenger and where would you go?

Ryan Gosling and we'd drive to Las Vegas to get married!

What is your dream car?

I still like the design of the MGB GT – it's just so compact and cute. In red.

How would you describe your driving style?

Slightly distracted, I think! Am usually busy chatting or thinking about other things. I prefer to be driven – much safer, too!

Tell me one driving anecdote from your past?

The day I passed my test, I got into my mother's Austin 1800 and went off on my own for the first time. I drove along a very straight road and put my foot down as hard as it would go. It was terrifying.

What do you drive now?

I occasionally drive my ex-



husband's company car, a BMW 3-series Touring, which he kindly has given over to me and our son. The ex-husband drives a VW Camper Van. Since the son, Rory, has been driving it – he's in a band and uses it to transport instruments and kit – the car has suffered various bumps and scratches. And as for the interior...horrendous!

MotorMouth

email motors@london.newsquest.co.uk



Young are happier to lie

A third of drivers aged 18 to 24 think it's OK to tell a few fibs to get a cheaper car insurance quote – compared to 18 per cent of all those surveyed.

Half of those aged 18 to 24 also said they believed everyone told a few white lies when it came to quoting for car insurance, and just under three quarters of that age group believe that insurers charge too much for cover, so they can afford it.

This compares with just six per cent of those 65 and over who think it's OK to lie.

The research was carried out by Gocompare.com which surveyed 2000 adults. It found:

- ☐ Fourteen per cent confessed they had guessed or lied about their annual mileage;
- ☐ Five per cent fibbed about where their car is parked;
- ☐ Five per cent lied about their job titles;
- ☐ Five per cent have admitted to damaging a car and driving off;
- ☐ Three per cent hid the truth



about previous claims;

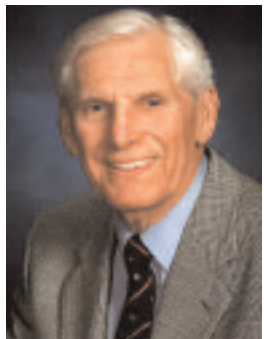
☐ Three per cent told porkies about the points on their licence.

Matt Oliver, Gocompare.com's car insurance spokesman, said: "It's good to see that most people are open and truthful when it comes to getting a car insurance quote, as the onus is on the consumer to be as honest and careful as possible when signing an insurance document and to take reasonable care not to make a misrepresentation."

ALLAMS OF EPSOM

Paying tribute to the founder of Allams

Reliability, stability, integrity were guiding principles



Respected: Ray Allam

Allams of Epsom still holds to the values and principles of founder, the late Ray Allam, who first set the business up more than 60 years ago.

Today the well known local garage and Alfa Romeo and Skoda dealership is managed by Ray's son Jeff. But Allams still strives to stay true to Ray's core principles of reliability, stability and integrity.

And the Allam family, who have been paying tribute to Ray who sadly died earlier this autumn, are rightly proud of what he achieved over the years.

"Allams of Epsom is now a recognised brand still reflecting the family values that dad was so proud of," said Ray's daughter Marie.

"He was still involved and interested right up to the end,



giving Jeff support. It is amazing that he started from absolutely nothing.

She added: "I feel honoured and proud to pay tribute to my wonderful dad. He touched so many lives. We are overwhelmed by the tributes received from his golfing friends and the high regard in which he was held."

Born near Chichester, Ray first set up his garage business in 1952, behind the home he shared with wife Jean in East Street, Epsom.

He was a highly skilled mechanic – he'd been an

apprentice with Ewell Downs Motors – and had been an army instructor during his post-war national service.

Through sheer hard work, he quickly expanded his business, eventually buying two garages, in Stoneleigh and on Epsom High Street.

A pillar of the local community and a huge golf fan, Ray was both past captain and president of Tyrrells Wood Golf Club near Leatherhead.

His other great passion was horse racing and he was a regular at Goodwood and had many



friends in the Epsom racing world.

Ray was also a powerboat enthusiast, travelling to the south of France to work on Lady Beaverbrook's boat. And when Jeff went into motor racing, Ray was a great supporter and extremely proud of what his son achieved.

But at heart, Ray Allam was a great family man, who will be much missed by wife Jean, son Jeff, daughter Marie and his five grandchildren.

"For dad, the family was everything – people knew him his

through work or the golf club but to us he was simply the head of our family and the one we all turned to for help and support," said Marie.

Over the years Allams of Epsom has grown substantially, and developed a reputation for providing customers across Surrey with top class service.

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Lowe waves the Stragglers' flag

Anthony Lalsing was fastest at the Kingston parkrun, clocking 18 minutes 47 seconds to break the tape.

Bringing the women home was Stragglers' Rachel Woodthorpe in 19:29, which was also good enough for fifth overall.

Stragglers also had three other fastest runners on the parkrun scene last weekend.

Emma Gray (Crane Park, 22:41), Maddie Garner (Forest Rec, 20:17) and Paul Lowe, *pictured*, (Richmond Park, 16:56) were waving the flag.



More sport: kingstonguardian.co.uk



Winner: Natalie Maclean hit the winner for a Surbiton side missing several key players

Surbiton's strength in depth

Surbiton Ladies proved they have strength in depth on Saturday by beating Canterbury 1-0 to stay top of the WHL Premier Division, *writes Colin Pike*.

The Sugden Road side were missing Giselle Ansley, Sarah Haycroft, Georgie Twigg, Hollie Webb and Julia King who are in Argentina for the Champions Trophy, Abi Robinson (unavailable) and Harriet Tibble (injured).

However, Surbiton's youngsters of Charlotte Calnan, Ellie De Heer, Holly Munro and Lottie Ross all stepped up under Rebecca Herbert's captaincy.

Their endeavour was rewarded in the 41st minute when Natalie Maclean found the backboard from a penalty corner for the only goal of the match.

The Champions Trophy starts on November 29 when sixth ranked England take on Australia at 7.30 pm (GMT) in Mendoza.

On Sunday, when Surbiton travel to Reading for their final WHL match of 2014, England face Germany before finishing against the hosts Argentina on Tuesday.

● Surbiton Men returned to winning ways in emphatic style on Saturday beating Canterbury 6-2 in Kent.

Alan Forsyth and Matt Daly hit two each, and Geoff McCabe and Chris Grassick also got on the scoresheet, as Surbiton erased the memory of a 4-1 defeat to Wimbledon last time round.

The men and ladies teams are both playing at Reading on Sunday.



Goal man: Alan Forsyth

REF JUSTICE: De Rennes trumps legendary ref Howard Webb

It's quality not quantity

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Jim de Rennes may not be able to trump famous referee Howard Webb on quality, but he can beat the former Premier League man in the middle on quantity.

The former Tiffin School English teacher was honoured for 25 years service as a county referee during a Surrey FA function at Met Police FC's Imber Court home last month.

Webb, who took charge of the 2010 Champions League and World Cup finals, was guest of honour and spoke for more than two hours on his 1,000+ match top level career.

Claygate-based De Rennes, who takes

pride in the fact he has been assaulted just once in his career, first blew his whistle when Tolworth Little League was short of officials and he has never looked back, chalking up more than 2,000 games in charge.

"Howard is probably the greatest ever referee world wide," said de Rennes, who also trains the next generation of officials.

"There is nobody better I could have received such an award from and to receive it in front of more than 200 colleagues was a great feeling.

"He may beat me on quality, but I can certainly beat him on quantity."

He added: "I took it up to help out my young sons and I caught the bug."

"I started in my 40s so was unable to go higher than the Combined Counties League, but I'd encourage



Preaching to the converted: Legendary referee Howard Webb addresses more than 200 Surrey referees at Imber Court, before presenting Jim de Rennes with his commemorative tankard, below left

anyone to take it up. It is never too late.

"I've made a great many friends in refereeing, which is a good job, because nobody else likes us."

De Rennes, who often takes charge of more than three games a week, largely referees for Oxshott Royals in Cobham and at Kingston University these days.

But he has been lucky enough to appear at both the old and new Wembley.

"I ran the line at a charity match at Wembley before the old stadium was demolished

and refereed some corporate matches at the new stadium," he added.

"There were not many people there, but it was still a thrill."

And de Rennes confirmed – unlike now retired Webb – he has no plans to hang up his whistle just yet.

"Age is nothing, fitness is everything," he said.

"It keeps me mentally sharp and fit."

"With all my experience I can get away without running so much by reading the game."



Ks depression sets in at Kingsmeadow

Tommy Williams insists he is working "24/7" to turn Kingstonian's dire season around, *writes Taimour Lay*.

A fourth 1-0 home defeat of the season was greeted with more depressed sighs than angry boos on Saturday as Kingstonian's alarming form continues.

This time it was Enfield Town who departed Kingsmeadow with all three Ryman Premier League points, with Ks mustering only one shot on target all afternoon.

Williams, who is having to cope with the loss of Andre McCollin to Aldershot, admitted that things are going badly wrong at present.

"We were second best," he said.



Sole effort: Pelayo Pico Gomez, right, was responsible for Ks' only effort on goal in the defeat to Enfield Town

"I thought we got overrun in midfield. We looked like we hadn't played for a while and it was nowhere near good enough – again."

"I'm working tirelessly on it, 24/7, to get it right and we will get it right. Today is a day to forget."

He added: "I know I'm new to Ks as a manager, and I know everybody's got high expectations. We're a work in progress, we are trying to find the right formula."

The defeat leaves Ks 10 points off the play-off places ahead of a derby at Dulwich Hamlet next Saturday.

Williams has acted by signing former Carshalton Athletic striker Steve Butterworth from Harrow Borough.

WINNERS: Old Tiffinians returned to winning ways in rugby's London Division Three South West thanks to an 18-12 home win over Old Mid-Whitgiftian. The old boys remain four points adrift of leaders Eastleigh. In Surrey One, Kingston lost 19-22 at home to Camberley to stay third from bottom of the table, and with only one win from seven.

FINE SHOW: KCS Old Boys RFC put last week's shock defeat at bottom club Farnham behind them to beat Old Reigatians 32-17 on the road. The win keeps the old boys fourth in London Division Two South West. Barry Williams, George Taylor, Tom Dugan and Gareth Stoppani, who also kicked the extras, got the tries. The old boys are next in action on December 6 when Old Alleynians are the visitors to Motspur Park.

THE BELT IS MINE: Anthony Ayinde retained his Queensbury League novice welterweight title after a split-decision points win over Kane Baker on Saturday night.



Get in: Jamie Byatt, right, enjoys his moment with team-mate Maz Bettache

Casuals move on

Corinthian Casuals first team coach Joe Davies reckons a hard-fought point at Sittingbourne on Saturday is a sign that the side is progressing in the right direction, *writes Tim Ashton*.

The 1-1 result leaves Casuals 10th in Ryman League Division One South, just three points off the play-off spots.

It also means Casuals have picked up four points from the past two games, including a 3-0 win over Ramsgate, ending a run of three successive defeats.

Davies said: "There are always improvements to be made but if you look at the fact we lost to the same side 3-0 on the opening day of the season there's real progress."

"Even a couple of weeks ago, we probably would have lost today when they equalised. However, there's evidence of progression."

He added: "There's always a good team spirit no matter what the results are, however winning helps massively."

"After the poor run we've had, to be two unbeaten now is great."

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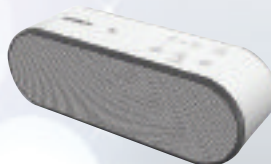
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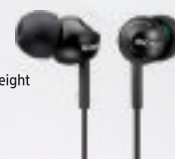
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